Crypto
Volume II, Number IV
October 1999

CRYPTO

Crypto: Hidden or Secret, from the Greek kruptos meaning hidden

"Love of mystery and awe of the unknown are also strong factors in establishing faith, the first principle necessary for producing creative power. Even the wildest superstition enshrines something of reality and a stratum of truth underlies most widespread beliefs."

Frank Hamel's Human Animals (William Rider & Son, Ltd., London, 1915)

Center Portion of a 1992 Postcard showing a commercial usage of Ogopogo, the undescribed aquatic creature of Okanagan Lake (British Columbia, Canada). Postcard shows a label from the 1930's and was printed by the British Columbia Orchard Industry Museum (1304 Ellis St., Kelowna, British Columbia, V1Y 1Z8, Canada)

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News Notes: IMAX Species

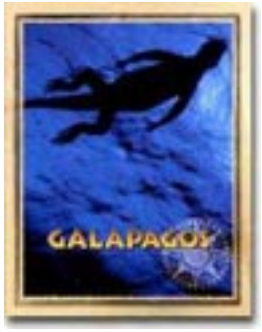
The Smithsonian Institute and the IMAX Ltd. in association with the National Science Foundation in a joint venture recently uncovered an estimated 12 or more new aquatic species. The discoveries came while the IMAX group was filming the Smithsonian's scientists for 14 weeks in the Galapagos island chain for a new 3-D IMAX film called *Galapagos* scheduled to premier October 27, 1999 at the Smithsonian Institute's Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

Although comparison studies on known species are still being carried out, the researchers feel confident that over a dozen new species were uncovered from the waters surrounding the 19 islands that make up the Galapagos Islands. Among the finds are a probable new species of sea bass, wrasse, cat shark, scorpion fish and anthiine bass. New varieties of urchins, mollusks and sponges are also thought to have been found in the waters.

This film and entertainment venture marks the second occurrence in recent memory. The second occurrence was an expedition off the coast of Cuba as part of a documentary for the Discovery Channel entitled *Forbidden Depths* that aired in June 1999 in North America. This first Cuban expedition by Americans was historical in its political context, but also for its discovery of various new species, or at least thought to be new species including a new gaper, goby, ray and flathead.

Although the species found are relatively small, they act as a demonstration of what the seas still hold to be found, and also suggest a new relatively unexplored venue of scientific research. A venue tied to sponsorship and entertainment in the form of documentaries and film.

Galapagos is produced and directed by Al Giddings and David Clark and is narrated by Kenneth Branagh.



Artwork for the IMAX-3D film *Galapagos*
Image used under stipulations of USC Title 17 §107

Sources:

Schmid, Randolph, Scientists Pack Research Into Movie, *Associated Press*, September 8, 1999
Discovery Channel's *Forbidden Depths*, air-date June 1999. Additional notes from Discovery Online.
IMAX Ltd. online site, www.imax.com

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News Note: 22 Flycatchers

On the island of Sangihe (a small island between the Philippines and Sulawesi in the Celebes Sea / Molucca Sea intersection) a group of conservationists from Action Sampiri report that in October of 1998 they watched 22 birds feeding on insects. Not an amazing claim, except that the birds that these researchers watched hasn't been conclusively seen or at least identified for over 100 years, in 1874, it was the cerulean paradise flycatcher (*Eutrichomyias rowleyi*).

Although there was an unconfirmed sighting in 1978 and another one in 1995, not since A. Meyer identified the type specimen in 1874 has the species been definitively located in the wild. Even more amazing, the first 1998 sighting occurred when Anus MacKoweal was fetching water for the base camp, a truly freak encounter.

Although sighted in 1998 the incidents were not reported until early 1999, this was done in an attempt to acquire protection for the species, whose population is estimated at around 100 individuals in an area of approximately 500 acres. So protection and conservation of the area is crucial, to protect not only the cerulean paradise flycatcher, but other rare avian species that only live in this area. Among these unique species are some newly discovered ones from 1996, a new bush hen and a new rail, both sighted in the wild and then found for sale in a local market in Beo.

Cerulean paradise flycatcher (*Eutrichomyias rowleyi*)
Photo by Jon Riley, Image used by the stipulations of USC Title 17 § 107

Sources:

Coates, B.J., and Bishop, K.D., A Guide to the Birds of Wallacea: Sulawesi, the Moluccas and Lesser Sunda Islands, Dove Publications, Queensland, 1997
Wardill, Jim C., and Riley, Jon, Birdwatching Areas - Sangihe and Talaud Islands, Indonesia, *OBC (Oriental Bird Club) Bulletin Number 29*, May 1999
Unique Birds Survive on Forgotten Islands, *Jakarta Post*, June 15, 1999
Britons Find 'Extinct' Blue Flycatcher, *Daily Telegraph* (London), August 30, 1999

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Editors Note: The Following Essay by Loren Coleman is reprinted below with his permission. The original source of this essay was an e-mail comment on several of the Bigfoot e-mail discussion groups in answer to an inquiry regarding the story of Jacko. The text is complete aside from some slight editorial changes, these being the extension of abbreviations such as Univ. to University and B.C. to British Columbia as well as repagination to fit this varied format from the essays original form. As such any errors due to editing for print publication are solely the fault of this publication.

Jacko - A Modern Fable

By Loren Coleman

Co-Author of The Field Guide to Bigfoot, Yeti, and Other Mystery Primates Worldwide
(Avon Books; New York; 1999, with Patrick Huyghe)
Co-Author of Cryptozoology A to Z: The Encyclopedia of Loch Monsters, Sasquatch, Chupacabras, and Other Authentic Mysteries of Nature
(Simon & Schuster; New York; 1999, with Jerome Clark)

The story of Jacko is a piece of Sasquatch folklore that refuses to die, despite a superb investigative article published in 1975, co-authored by John Green and Sabina W. Sanderson.

The history and investigation of the historical Jacko only began in earnest within the last few decades, not the 1880s, of course. A news reporter named Brian McKelvie, during the 1950s, became interested in the then-current stories of the Sasquatch, being carried by his local British Colombian papers. McKelvie searched for older reports. What he found was the *Daily British Colonist*, 4 July 1884, article about Jacko. The account detailed the sighting of a smallish hairy creature ("something of the gorilla type") supposedly seen and captured near Yale, British Columbia, on 30 June 1884, and housed in a local jail.

In North America, at the end of the 19th century, the use of "gorilla" in article references (as I detailed in a *Fortean Times* column in 1997), is directly related to the media attention about gorillas whipped up by Du Chaillu's sensationalistic travels in Africa and his book that came out in 1861. Vernon Reynolds (The Apes, 1967. p. 137) writes: "After (Du Chailluis) trip, which lasted from 1856 to 1859, Du Chaillu returned to the United States, where he received widespread acclaim." In 1863, another famous gorilla/travel book was published, written by American explorer Winwood Reade, after he spent five months in gorilla country. Nineteen century articles about "strange creatures" - whether real or imagined - often thus labeled them as "gorillas".

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McKelvie shared the Jacko account with John Green and Rene Dahinden. MeKelvie told them this was the only record of the event due to a fire that had destroyed other area newspapers of the time.

John Green, in 1958, found and interviewed a man (August Castle) who remembered the Jacko talk of the time, but he said his parents did not take him to the jail to see the beast. Other senior citizens remembered the talk of the creature, but no one could produce any truly good evidence for or eyewitness accounts (other than the *British Colonist* story) of Jacko.

The story's first modern appearance in a hardbound book propelled the Jacko incident into the modern literature, and as they say, history. The book, of course, was Ivan T. Sanderson's 1961 Abominable Snowman: Legend Come to Life. Other authors, including John Green, Rene Dahinden/Don Hunter, Grover Krantz, and John Napier, would follow, as would years of rehashers and men's magazine writers. The story was repeated again and again.

Nevertheless, John Green was still digging into the journalistic evidence for the story. He had discovered that, yes, while the newspapers from the time do not exist in the *British Columbian* archives (as McKelvie had found out to his dismay), there are microfilms of British Columbian newspapers from the 1880s at the University of British Columbia. Green then found two important articles that threw light on the whole affair.

The New Westminister, British Columbia, *Mainland Guardian* of 9 July 1884, mentioned the story and noted: "The 'What Is It' is the subject of conversation in town.

How the story originated, and by whom, is hard for one to conjecture. Absurdity is written on the face of it. The fact of the matter is, that no such animal was caught, and how the *Daily British Colonist* was duped in such a manner, and by such a story, is strange."

On 11 July 1884, the *British Columbian* carried the news that some 200 people had gone to the jail to view Jacko. But the "only wild man visible" was a man, who was humorously called the "governor of the goal [jail], who completely exhausted his patience" fielding the repeated inquiries from the crowd about the nonexistent creature.

As Green has pointed out, the *Colonist* never disputed its critics. Green (with Sanderson's widow) wrote of the Jacko story as a piece of historical journalistic fiction in the article, "Alas, Poor Jacko," in *Pursuit* 8, 1 (January 1975), pages 18-19.

Despite John Green feeling "it doesn't look good for Jacko," people have uncritically reported the Jacko story, with elder citizens' remembrances of the media attention to it, as if that is evidence for the reality of Jacko, for years.

Unfortunately, a whole new generation of hominologists, Sasquatch searchers, and Bigfoot researchers are growing up thinking that the Jacko story is an ironclad cornerstone of the field, a foundation piece of history proving that Sasquatch are real. Jacko may have more to do with local rumors brought to the level of a news story that has evolved into a modern fable. Is it a fable of caution, really, not of reality?

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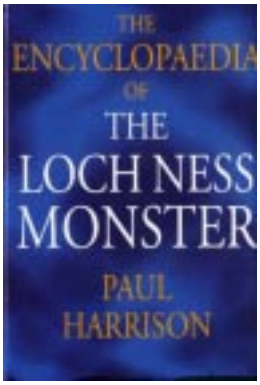
Reviews:

Note: All reviews by Craig Heinselman unless stated otherwise.

If your looking to purchase one of these books, known sources that carry them are listed by each title. Additionally use the ISBN number and order it through a local bookstore in your area (always best to support local merchants if possible). Additionally a five star rating system has been utilized, the highest rating is henceforth five stars ✯✯✯✯✯ and the lowest rating one star ✯ These ratings appear next to the publisher, year and length of item (as applicable to media being reviewed).

The Encyclopedia of the Loch Ness Monster

Authors: Paul Harrison
ISBN 0-7090-6461-6
Robert Hale, London, 1999, 224 pages, £14.99 ✯✯✯✯✯
Available through Amazon.UK at www.amazon.co.uk



Written by the President of the Loch Ness Monster Research Society, Paul Harrison, this encyclopedic entry into Nessiedom is a crucial undertaking. Within its sparse 224 pages are short entries akin to what would find in a local libraries smaller encyclopedia. These entries run the gamut from people with crucial historical ties to the Loch Ness mystery (not biographically, strictly in relation to their ties to Loch Ness) to candidates for identification to the history of the Loch itself. Even various tidbits of trivia style entries are in place, making the overall appearance of the books content smoother to envision.

Not strictly a reading type book. The encyclopedia is more of a reference guide to the history of the "Loch Ness Monster". Presented in a straightforward and unbiased (for the most part) manner, the book looks at the facts as they are known without presenting any side theories as to what is the most likely candidate for what is in the Loch or whether nothing is in the Loch.

There are some drawbacks to the encyclopedia though, be these due to editorial nature for space requirements or something else. Among them one of the most glaring is the omission of Dan Taylor's proposed Nessa Project for the year 2000, wherein a submersible vehicle would be used to "hunt" Nessie and extract a tissue sample. This is the proposed plan (in a nutshell) and has been a debatable issue since the first press notices in 1998 of Taylor's intent. The omission of this upcoming event, or at least a mention of the quandary over its intentions is but a small oversight in the scheme of the book though. In other areas the entries are rather short, with little information as to the location of an incident, for example the entry on the 1968 sighting by Howard Pratt and Phillip Bull makes no mention of the location of the sighting, only what they saw. Again, these are not glaring errors, nor necessarily critical exclusions, just demonstrations of some areas with less information.

Overall the book at hand is a necessary inclusion to anyone's library with an interest in the subject. The compact size and decent coverage of the more important histories and accounts of the area and theories is a nice refreshing one. Making the book an easy to handle guide to the area as well as a cursory introduction into the incidents at the Loch.

One would be hard pressed to overly criticize the book, it demonstrates a persistence and dedication to presenting the known facts and uncovering some of the lesser-known ones. One could only hope that other books could favor a more unbiased approach to the reporting at hand like the Encyclopedia of The Loch Ness Monster does.

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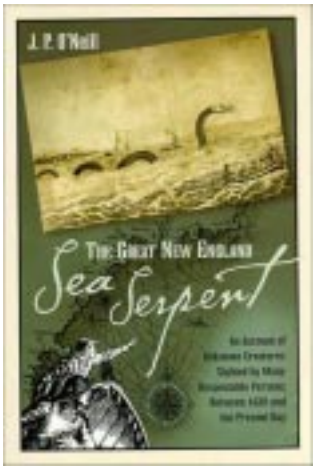
The Great New England Sea Serpent

Authors: J.P. O'Neill
ISBN 0-89272-461-7
Down East Books, Camden (Maine, USA), 1999, 256 pages, $15.95 ★★★★★
Available through Amazon.com or call Down East Books at 800-766-1670 for direct purchasing information from them ($15.95+$3.00 shipping).



June O'Neill's book offers the reader an overview of the historical record, going back over 300 years, of the incidents of reported unknown aquatic animals off the coast of New England. These unknown aquatic animals, Sea Serpents, are treated through the text as narratives and described for the most part from the actual records of those reporting the animals. Hence, a rehashing of previous books and articles is not presented but a thorough historical record of New England reports is offered from the perspective of witnesses, doubters and researchers.

Others have dealt with the natural phenomenon of Sea Serpents from both regional accounts, such as Dr. Paul LeBlond and Dr. Edward Bousfield's Cadborasaurus: Survivor from the Deep (Horsdal & Schubart; Victoria. B.C.; 1995) to global accounts, such as Rupert Gould's The Case for the Sea Serpent (Philip Allan; London; 1930) and Bernard Heuvelman's In the Wake of the Sea Serpents (Hill & Wang; New York; 1965). In which reports from New England do appear as notations or selected chapters in an overview of the phenomenon. Although these mentioned books are excellent sources for their regional or global views, O'Neill's book is the first hard treatment of the New England occurrences.

Beyond just the first true New England book treatment of recent years, O'Neill's book uncovers new informational treasurers. Among these uncovered treasurers is the scrapbook of George W. Woodbury from the Cape Ann Historical Association. Within this Scrapbook #15 (as listed at the Historical Association) are accounts from personal correspondence and rare archival information of local newspaper sources. Another scrapbook was found by a Wayne Wilcox at the Calais Free Library and was a scrapbook collected by a W.W. Brown (listed as Miscellaneous Scrapbook #8 at the library).

These new items, although viewable as only more anecdotal accounts of Sea Serpents, are valuable in piecing together the history of the areas. A job O'Neill has done admirably in a stylized manner of intermingling background historical data (for example - the accounts of P.T. Barnum, ecology and history of the fishing industry and overall theories) and the original texts of the eras. These texts serve then to show the changing language and culture of the people, as well as their familiarity with the oceans, a crucial key to their livelihoods as well as an added merit to their credibility in accurate reporting.

If one comes onto the book expecting answers, one will not find them. The answers may never been uncovered, but the elements leading to those answers in New England are laid out for all to judge independently with The Great New England Sea Serpent. In her own words June O'Neill lays the framework for skeptic or believer at the close of her book:

"In the absence of an actual specimen, all is conjecture. But, if we dismiss the various "explanations" - seals, seaweed, and any number of large fish or selachians swimming in a line - offered for the New England sea serpents and take as a matter of faith that this is not a hoax of two hundred years' duration or a mass hallucinations, we are left with creatures that many individuals with significant collective knowledge of the sea and its inhabitants have described as unknown to them."

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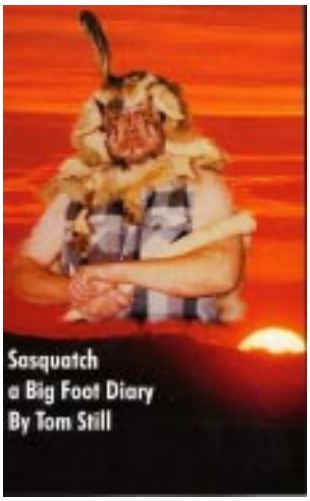
Sasquatch a Big Foot Diary

Authors: Tom Still
ISBN N/A
Creations2000 (printed by Towner Press, Bellingham, WA), 17 Pages, $6.00 ★
Available through Amazon.com



Tom Still's diary style book offers dated entries of encounters with large hairy creatures, taken to be Sasquatch. That in its self is not a problem, and is an interesting approach. However, tied in with the Sasquatch reports are encounters with UFO's. Treated as separate entities that again would not be a problem, however within this slim softcover book the two subjects are one and the same.

Recounting four incidents in the book, 1956, 1958, 1961, and 1994 the correlation between Bigfoot style creatures and UFO's is done. In once case (the 1994 one) two Bigfoot creatures are chased by Still (and local authorities as well as government authorities) while they carried a steer. Just before the authorities can capture the creatures, an immense ship arrives, rendering everything frozen except the two creatures that proceed to carry the steer into the ship.

Perhaps the incidents happened, perhaps they did not. That is not the case for a review session, but the ways in which the facts are presented are a matter for review. There is no supportive evidence for these events, or even a statement by the author as to why he is sharing these stories now. One is left with an idea that either the entire book is a work of fiction, or that it is a hastily written book with shoddy and poor explanations as to why these creatures the author claims to have seen are indeed Bigfoot related. Perhaps an alternative title would be more appropriate Sasquatch a Big Foot Diary: Sky Above, Hair Below.

Corrections:

Dominique Naudo was kind to make note that in CRYPTO Volume II, Number II (July 1999), in the listing of Cryptozoological themed publications there were a few missed. These were: Cryptozoologia and Cryptos Magazine (Belgium and France respectively). A few others were not included as well, this was due to limited space. So, here are some additional publications, and again note that all of these do not necessarily contain Cryptozoological content in every issue:

Cryptozoologia Square Des Latins 49/4 1050 Bruxelles Belgium	Cryptos Magazine 44 Rue François Chenieux 87000 Limoges France	Loch Ness Monster Research Society P.O. Box 5560 Market Harborough Leicestershire LE16 7YQ England
Science Frontiers P.O. Box 107 Glen Arm, MD 21057 USA Published by the Sourcebook Project		The Ness Information Service 7 Huntshieldford St. John's Chapel Bishop Auckland Durham DL13 1RQ England

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Answer to September's Cryptoseek Puzzle

1) The natives of Nunivak Island call this animal Pal Ra Yuk. What do the natives of King Island Call it?_____**Tizheruk**_____
2) This African creature is described as being semi-aquatic, and having a large horn on the end of its muzzle or snout. Translated it's native name is akin to 'Killer of Elephants'. What is the name of this animal?_____**Emela-ntouka**_____
3) Dmitri Bayanov coined this word that deals with the study of unknown forms of hominids?_____**Hominology**_____
4) The last name of the author of such early works as Exotic Zoology and Salamanders and Other Wonders?_____**Ley**_____
5) What is the name of the creature reportedly seen by Paddy Freaney, Sam Waby and Rachelle Rafferly on January 20, 1993?_____**Moa**_____
6) This possible adapted saber-tooth cat from Guyana (South America) may have two names, the first Maipolina. What is the four lettered word for its second name?
_____**Aypa**_____

T	**E**	**H**	**L**	**M**	**A**

Hint: This is another name for the Pyar-them.

Congratulations to our winners, all of which were repeated winners:

First Prize went to Gilbert (Gil) Wald of Bridgewater, New Jersey (USA)

Second Prize went to Andre Merten of Berlin, Germany

There was no third place winner

There is no Cryptoseek Puzzle for October, the puzzles will continue in the November 1999 issue.

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THE TRIMBLE COUNTY BEAST

By George Clappison

George Clappison is one of the founders of the Ohio Bigfoot Research and Study Group (O.B.R.S.G.). He has appeared on the television show *Sightings* as well as being a speaker at the recent Eastern Sasquatch Researcher Meeting on September 18, 1999 in Kittanning, Pennsylvania. Along with Joedy Cook he co-wrote Bigfoot in Ohio: Encounters with the Grassman (with Christopher Murphy; Pyramid Publications; New Westminster, B.C., 1997). E-mail: speleorelic@hotmail.com ; Web-site: http://users1.ee.net/pmason/OBFRSG.html

The Summer of 1962 crept into Kentucky; lurked in backwoods, stalked the night. The Midwest, as the rest of the nation, worried about Cold War tensions, the Economy, and other mundane concerns. Trimble County Kentucky, situated along the Ohio River, 50 miles to the Southwest of Cincinnati, Ohio, eased into Summer, quietly infiltrated by the Unknown.

Sunday evening, June 3, 1962. Owen Powell heard a commotion out back. Something was causing the hogs to agitate. He headed for the back porch closely followed by his two companions. As he opened the door the dogs ran past him and hurried toward the hog pen. A dark form loomed over the swine, moving silently, but observed by the farmer. Over 6 feet tall and upright on its hind legs, completely black, Owen had never seen anything quite like it before, but he knew that whatever it was shouldn't have been in his hog pen molesting his pigs. Owen Powell immediately decided that his police dog, a large shepherd, and his collie, were going to attack the strange beast. "Get 'em boy", he commanded. The two dogs bounded toward the pen growling and lunging. The dogs worked in unison, alternately attacking and retreating. Owen could see the intense battle in the darkness and heard the strange guttural bellows mixed with the painful whimpers of his canine friends. He knew that two large dogs, one of which being a vicious police dog, could bring down any man or animal known to these parts. But that night, his two friends ran back to his feet, whimpering and crying. All three went back inside. The intruder lumbered back into the night. What beast could fight off these two? "What the hell was that?", Owen asked his wife. No one rested that night, but Owen kept his gun handy.

Trimble County Sheriff Clem Curtis was a cautious, methodical man. He took his job as the top law man in the county very seriously. Owen's report was duly recorded by Sheriff Clem. Reports of prowlers roaming through the countryside were received by the stoic county judge, and soon the sheriff heard of groups of armed farmers scouring the hills in search of a mysterious animal. Described as about 6 feet tall, covered in black hair, walking on its hind legs with arms hanging to the knees, it had been seen numerous times at various locations in the county. Most witnesses described a most peculiar creature, but were unable to identify it. Sheriff Clem Curtis issued words of caution to armed persons who were searching an area northwest of Bedford, Kentucky. "There is no reason to get alarmed" the sheriff said, and pointed out that the strange creature had been in the vicinity for some time, but had not killed any animals to devour the meat, but that it killed was certain. Obviously, other reports had been received prior to the story leaking out to the press. Clem also warned that hunters for the unknown animal might accidentally mistake a human being in the darkness and fire with fatal results. Or they might wound the beast and infuriate it to the extent the gun wielder would be attacked and injured. The sheriff then asked that he be notified of any future sightings prior to anyone trying to kill or capture the beast.

Assumed to be a huge black gorilla lurking in the area, the county residents were on edge. Thursday, June 6, 1962, L. T. Doty, of Hickory Grove, reported that his two dogs had returned to the house with numerous severe lacerations and showing evidence of having been in a great fight. It wasn't known what the dogs had battled. Apprehension was high among the residents. Patton's Creek,

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Kidwell Pike and the neighborhood of Hickory Grove were being avoided by citizens fearful that the beast might attack them. Trimble farmers armed with high powered rifles searched again through the undergrowth in another fruitless search to flush out the "Thing". The area in question was about 10 square miles, largely covered with dense forest and thick underbrush. At a point near the Ohio River a mile below Hanover is an area known as The Cliffs. Large rocks the size of cars, and caves from 20 to 70 feet deep was suspected of being the area where the unknown animal hides.

Silas McKinney was concerned about his two 10-day old calves. As the sun poked through the trees around his farm early that June morning, he set out on his daily chores. There, lying on the ground about 15 feet outside the barn, Silas witnessed a horrible sight. One of his calves was dead. Its head had been smashed, the only sign of violence evident. Inside the barn, the other calf was alive, but had been roughed up. How or why, Silas couldn't imagine. The only entrance to the barn was a 2 1/2 by 3 foot window, eight feet off the ground. Under the window a farm gate leaned against the wall of the barn that hadn't been there the night before. "There ain't no way that calf could of climbed out", Silas told the sheriff. As Sheriff Clem looked around inside the barn he found tufts of black hair around the window frame, and took note that the remaining calf was in a 12 foot square pen, 4 feet high, made of heavy timber rails. Both calves had been in there the night before. Claw marks of some kind could be seen on the gate under the window, and in other areas inside the barn.

Mrs. Dunn had stopped by to visit Ruth Corley Monday evening June 11, 1962. Their conversation had lasted into the night and Mrs. Dunn would soon have to leave. But a noise distracted both women. Together they looked toward the window and were frozen with fear. Looking back in through the window was the most dreadful face they had ever seen. Strangely human, but inhuman, the beast was covered in reddish hair except for the face area. It just watched them, didn't move, didn't flinch, just stared back. The ghastly eyes penetrated the women, looked into them as much as at them. It disappeared just a fast as it had come. Both ladies reported they were unable to move as the dark, looming visage inspected them, even though a rifle was at hand. That night, as Mr. and Mrs. Corley were retiring and trying to figure out who or what had peered in, a scratching sound from the direction of their water barrel out back could be heard. Then the scratching moved: in front of the house now, almost too quick of a movement to be made by the same source. Faintly, incessantly, something was scraping at the window screen, but a glacial fear held them fast. Neither slept well and at first light they went out to look around. That's when they heard it, off in the distance across the field. "It coming from over toward the Powell place", Ruth said as she and her husband strained to look deeper into the surrounding forest. And he gripped the rifle tighter. Owen was outside that morning. He heard it too. But not until the reporter questioned every one in the area did it become known that they had both heard the same animal at the same time. Owen Powell's place is only a half-mile down Kidwell Pike. Mrs. Corley told Sheriff Clem that sightings of the creature weren't anything new to members of her family. About 3 years ago, some type of animal would lurk in the weeds and high grass and thump along after her children when they went for the cows, "It made all sorts of weird noises", she said. About this time the Corley family was raising a garden with melons. "We'd never get a whole melon before that animal, or what ever it was, would get to it. It looked like a human hand had scraped the heart out of each melon", she said. "One time my daughter Mary went to the garden, and looking up saw a black thing that looked like a small monkey or chimpanzee standing in a corn row. As some other children were coming, she looked first to the kids, then back to the spot, and the beast had disappeared." Similar reports were heard about that same year from the Patton's Creek area, only a few miles from the Corley place.

Byrd Varble saw it. He didn't want to and wished he hadn't. "I will never forget that awful thing", Byrd told Sheriff Clem Curtis. Two years ago, driving down Kidwell Pike it ran across the road in front him, illuminated by his cars headlights. It happened again two weeks ago right here in the same place. "It was walking upright, slowly across the road. I thought it was a chimpanzee or gorilla, about 5 feet tall with arms that hang below the knees", Byrd stated.

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Reports continued to roll into police headquarters. A hog and calf were killed on a farm in the area of the sightings. One man heard it "clomping" along back on June 9, 1962. A beagle belonging to Earl Grant, who resides at the foot of Craig Creek Hill, was found dead with its throat ripped out and other cuts on its body. Lester McDowell sent his son Lawrence into town to report strange animal deaths on his farm. He lived near Earl Grant, but had heard nothing of the beagle's death. Four lambs had been attacked. One each night from Thursday, June 14, 1962 till Sunday, June 17, 1962. But the last one had survived the attack with only a gash on its head. The other 3 had their throats ripped out, heads crushed, and all the blood had been drained from the bodies. Attack by dogs was ruled out by the farmer due to the manner in which the killings had occurred. No pools of blood were found near the carcasses.

Silas McKinney, who has lost a calf to the monster, found two tracks out back in the mud on Wednesday, June 13, 1962. He dug it out with a shovel and saved it for Sheriff Clem. They're about the size of a human hand, with 4 stubby toes and claws evident on each toe. Madison Courier Newspaper reporter Ed Gulley took the mud tracks to Hanover college zoologists Dr. J. Daniel Webster for evaluation. "It looks like a big dog to me, probably a doberman pinscher or even a large boxer. A dogs print would have four toes, small palm and claws. A gorilla has a foot very similar to a human being's, probably a longer instep and a little wider than a man's. Nor could it be a bear since they're a round print with claws showing, but toes which are almost unrecognizable", Webster told the Madison Courier reporter. Everyone agreed that the prints could be that of a dog, and still not be prints made by the beast because the prints were found near a spot where the creature is thought to have been and were not witnessed in the making. He also said, "all animals of the monkey family, including the gorilla, have five toes. The two prints shown had four". Adding, "a dog could easily have killed the calf too". Muddying the waters more, Webster states, "There is no evidence to indicate that 'The Thing' is not a dog.' How Webster could tell what breed a dog was by the prints is miraculous to say the least. Identifying a gorilla footprint as similar to a human is a very loose description indeed because the largest digit on a gorilla's foot is opposable, like a human thumb. Stating that a dog could have killed the calf, knowing that the calf died from a blow to the head, is suspicious at best, and sad at worst. No dog has ever been known to kill in this manner. And how a dog could have removed a calf from a barn through a window 8 feet above the ground was not addressed by Webster. Nor the fact that no dog has been observed as having any part in the attacks or sightings except to have been injured or killed. "No animal could do this except a gorilla or a human being", Webster said. Adding that he does not give the first thought that it could be a gorilla, and, "only a human being could do such a thing."

Sheep herdsmen in Trimble County familiar with dog attacks on sheep, explained that a dog attacks a sheep from the rear. They nip along the body until they reach the head. After the sheep falls, the final kill is at the throat, a type of kill that results in a very messy carcass, with blood all over. The sheep found killed looked like they were struck by a blow and there was no evidence of wool being pulled out along the body as it would if attacked by dogs. Dr. Webster, retreated from his dog theory and stated, "It is characteristic of a bear to become enraged and take revenge on other animals, if it were wounded by dogs or another animal. But most bears do not damage livestock, unless they are in the habit of doing it." In support of his bear theory, Dr. J. Daniel Webster said that black bears once roamed this territory and were generally distributed throughout Indiana and Kentucky before the early 1800's. "The last reported shooting of a bear in Indiana occurred about 100 years ago. It is not impossible for bears to be around, but it is highly unlikely", the zoologists said. He also said the beast might be a bobcat, but that this too was unlikely because bobcats attack in packs of three or four and most often eat their prey. "A bear has a very keen sense of smell, but they are almost blind", "If they wanted to, bears could stay out of human sight and be seen only occasionally, upon chance", noting that the countryside is plentiful with wild berries and fruit trees, the zoologists thinks, "a bear or two, and its cubs could exist there."

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TRIMBLE COUNTY SHERIFF TO LEAD SEARCH FOR BEAST, the Madison Courier front page headline read on June 16, 1962, and was accompanied by a photograph of Sheriff Clem Curtis standing along side State Trooper John Miller's patrol car as they checked their radio equipment in preparation for the "all-out" hunt. Radios were supplied by the Madison Radio Service. Coordination of the hunt with the state police was important to the Sheriff. The article went on to say; "There is some form of animal still on the loose in the northwest part of Trimble county—be it gorilla, bear, lion, or large dog—no one seems to know for sure, but many are sure something is there that doesn't belong, and they want it eliminated." Sheriff Clem Curtis realized what he had to do to quell the fears of his constituency. "We'd like to get it alive if possible, or dead if necessary. But we want to be sure he's removed or run out of the area. The people are scared and they want action., he told reporters. As the hot summer evening squeezed the sweat out of the determined group of men, Sheriff Clem surveyed his forces arrayed against the unknown. A large number of men, keen-eyed and armed with rifles powerful enough to drop any beast in the area milled around the police cars. Exactly how many was never revealed, but the sheriff had asked that, "all persons desiring to join the hunt to register with him since vicious dogs will be used that could seriously injure anyone not in the party." Seven highly trained, vicious police dogs arrived from Louisville, Kentucky. Steve Flieischaker, a special dog trainer, offered the dogs, and joined the search. A helicopter will be overhead in case the creature is flushed into the open. And a Louisville radio Station placed an airplane at the sheriff's disposal to make air patrols. They all set out at 7 PM Saturday evening, June 18, 1962. The posse combed the countryside near Kidwell pike for 5 1/2 hours. It was called off at 12:30 am Sunday morning, June 19, 1962. No gorilla, no lion or bear, not even a dog was seen. Everyone went home without knowing what lurked the dark places of Kentucky that hot June night. We may never know. No further documentation has become available. It was believed that what ever was there, had been flushed out as a result of the activities of the hunters, and increased traffic at night.

In addition to the "Beast" lurking somewhere in Trimble County, Hildred Paschall reported a snake as big around as a stovepipe and estimated its length at 28 feet. Reported in the Madison Courier of Thursday, June 21, 1962, officials near the community of Hazel, Kentucky requested the help of a trained snake handler in assessing evidence of a large reptile. Ernie Collins, a carnival snake handler, working in conjunction with Murray State College biologists Dr. Hunter Hancock, found belly tracks and other evidence that indicated a snake some 20 feet or better was in the area. Raided squirrel nests at least 20 feet off the ground had been found and Mr. Collins conjectured that the reptile might be a climbing snake, possibly an Indian Python. Markings on the snake witnessed by Hildred Paschall corresponded to the markings of the Indian Python, Hancock said. There were no reports of escaped reptiles.

Dr. J. Daniel Webster was contacted in February of 1999 in regards to this series of events. He is still active in research, Professor Emeritus at Hanover College, and remembers the incident vividly. Webster indicated to this writer that together with a Madison Courier reporter and the sheriff of Trimble County, they visited the barn where the calf had been killed. He estimated that the calf was a half-grown heifer and admits that he did not see the carcass. The conclusions he offers, still clear in his mind after 37 years, are as follows: " 1.) The killing had probably been done by a large dog, possibly the one I had seen (large, black, shaggy St. Bernard size on neighboring farm less than a mile from the killing place), or perhaps a group of dogs. 2.) Rumors and newspaper stories make fine tales (see Conan Doyle's The Hound of the Baskervilles.) "

With all due respect for the eminent Dr. Webster, this all sounds extremely ridiculous. The "Beast" had been identified by authorities variously as a bear, mountain lion, dog, gorilla, chimp, bobcat, human. The method of killing was unlike any of these, and indeed beyond the capability of all these save human and gorilla, as stated clearly by Webster back in 1962. It was in 1958 that road construction workers found large human-like footprints in the Bluff Creek, California area, and Jerry Crew made a plaster cast of a print and reported it to a local newspaper. This story was carried nation-wide and bigfoot was exposed to the world. Although not widely known, reports of creatures matching descriptions in Trimble County in 1962 have been around for a long time. But no consideration was given to the obvious solution. As the saying goes: after you have eliminated the impossible, whatever is left, no matter how improbable, is the solution. Is the "beast" a bigfoot? You decide.

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Cryptofiction

Transformation as a Theme

The idea of a human being transforming into something beyond their physical limitations is not a new concept. Used throughout history as the conceptual view of horror and fear in the manner of werewolves and other werebeasts. Usually attributed to an evil nature or unfortunate curse. These transformations cross cultural barriers and stereotypes, and show equilibrium to the species being transformed to. With the advent of popular entertainment vessels such as television and motion pictures, these ideas have even more so been ingrained into out minds and cultures.

But, within these ideas of transformations are the fictional realms as well. Now, one could very well write page after page of the demonstration of transformations and metamorphosis of man into wolf, as a mainstay of this idea There are some isolated instances though, wherein a cryptid is discussed as being purposefully transformed. In other words they were once human, but chose to change into something more or were forced to change into something more due to ecological or social forces. An odd idea it is, but one that will now be delved into.

Fredric Brown (1907 - 1972) was a prolific short story writer for pulp magazines and books in the mid part of this century. Famous for what were called *Brown Twists*, his writing demonstrated unexpected and often ironic twists at their ends, akin to the work of O. Henry. In 1960 in the magazine *Dude* Brown penned a story entitled *Abominable*. As the title implies it was a tale of the Abominable Snowman, but also the Abominable Snowwoman. Without giving away the ending to this entertaining tale of the Yeti, the ironic twist of the story line comes at the end and does indeed deal with a Snowwoman, and not Snowman. Or to use a better terminology, a female of the Yeti is utilized in the story.

What makes Brown's story different though is in several parts, first is the manner of his twists to the story, the other is what these Abominable Snowpeople are. They are the physical transformation of a Sherpa like group:

"Let me explain," said the voice above and behind him. "We, whom you call Abominable Snowmen, are human, but transmuted. A great many centuries ago we were a tribe like the Sherpas. We chanced to discover a drug that let us change physically, let us adapt by increased size, hairiness, and other physiological changes to extreme cold and altitude, let us move up into the mountains, into country in which others cannot survive, except for the duration of brief climbing expeditions. Do you understand?

They are human beings, who purposefully chose to become transformed into something more in order to survive in an extreme foreign environment. But, a transformation that isolated them and sent fear into those who saw them, hence creating a legend of the Yeti.

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Another story is more recent and has only appeared as a short story on the Internet. This tale is written by a Dan Lea and is entitled *Snowman*, however unlike to Fredric Brown story, Lea's story is not about a purposeful transformation, but rather an unknown transformation. In the same instance though, the being to be transformed into is a thick haired, strong, large, bipedal creature akin to what is associated with as a Sasquatch or Yeti style creature. The reason for the transformation is not clearly explained, but in the context of the story line it can be partially pulled out.

Environmental changes are affecting the Earth in this story, not a greenhouse affect, rather the reverse in that harsh cold and snows are affected the planet. The scene is the coast of England, with a scientist studying the atmosphere in an attempt to explain what was happening. In the course of events he spies a large being, thinking it was an Eskimo of sorts, he thinks little of the mystery. AT the same time he is starting to feel ill. Latter to find out that he himself has changed into a white haired creature, and with him is the being he saw earlier. Again, the other creature though is not a man, but a woman, and explains simply that they are human still.

So, in this case the environmental actions of the planet causing extreme cold and snows have acted upon the human physiology to change. To alter into a warmer more dominant force that can withstand the forces of nature around them.

These stories are interesting in that they offer an idea of how the human spirit can be alighted to another place, a varied domain. And at the same time their physical appearance as human beings is altered in accordance to a change in environmental alterations. Human on the inside, nonhuman on the outside.

In the 1999 novel Hunter by James Byron Huggins, this idea of transformation is applied in a genetic manner. In this case viable genetic material is obtained from a 10,000-year-old preserved body of an unknown biped. The creature was superior in strength and physical attributes than modern man, and was described as *Homo scimitar*. Though, the find was not by science, rather the military who in due course use the viable genetic material to try to make a super soldier. A fast, malevolent creature associated with Sasquatch within the novel. In this case it is genetic sciences that are creating a transformation of *Homo sapiens* into something more, or perhaps something less. Not for survival, but for the art of war.

What one could safely say from these stories is that the idea of the human physical being to change into something more is still present with us today. It is the idea of escape and exploration, and going beyond the limited boundaries of our physical framework, yet retaining our mental abilities. The usage of the Abominable Snowman and the Sasquatch as further transformations is a relatively new one in fiction, but who is to say more will not be seen in the future. Even children's literature has shown a tendency to transformation stories, Malka Drucker's The Sea Monster's Secret is one example. It uses a transformation of a person into a so called Sea Monster at night.

Humans do not alter their molecule structures to such a level as to allow us to change completely, but we can all hold fresh to the idea of a new life. And while we're at it, a new form to explore.

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Classifieds & Miscellany

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Wanted:	**Wanted:**
More than a Myth: The Search for the Monster of Muskrat Lake by Michael Bradley (Hounslow Press, Willowdale (ON, Canada), 1989 Gary Campbell 9 Burn Brae Place Inverness, Scotland IV2 5TA NESSIE5@aol.com	Any English fictional novel or short story having a cryptozoological theme. Children's literature, juvenile literature or adult literature. Craig Heinselman 135 Elm St, Apt. 81 Milford, NH USA 03055 cheinselman@msn.com

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